

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 81801

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
 )  
KURT BERLIN )  
 )  
Serial No.: Unassigned ) Group Art Unit: Unknown  
 )  
Filed: Herewith ) Examiner: Unknown  
 )  
For: METHOD FOR CHARACT- )  
ERIZING NUCLEIC ACID )  
FRAGMENTS )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the amendment indicated below.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4, 6-8, 11, 14-18 as follows:

4. (Amended) The method according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, further characterized in that the nucleic acid fragment to be characterized is bound covalently to the surface.
  
6. (Amended) The method according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, further characterized in that the oligomers of the array bind covalently to the second surface.